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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LEZAK, ARRIENNE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/746,325

Applicant(s)

GILBERT, LANNY

Examiner

Arrienne M. Lezak

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Passport TM in view of US Patent 5,966,705 to Koneru.

3. Regarding Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16 and 17, Microsoft Passport TM discloses a system and method for providing information on a plurality of requestors over the Internet, ("Microsoft Passport: Streamlining Commerce and Communication on the Web", October 11, 1999 article – Examiner numbered p.18), comprising:

- storing information on the plurality of users in a database and associating the information with a plurality of keys, (Passports), wherein keys, (Passports), are assigned, (created), for the user by an assigning functionality, (per pending Claim 17), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- receiving a request for information on a particular user from one of the requestors over the Internet, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15);

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- determining a key corresponding to user data associated with the request, (per pending Claim 12), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- using the key(s) associated with the request to retrieve the information on that particular user from the database, (per pending Claim 13), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- forwarding the information on that particular user to the one requestor over the Internet, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- wherein receiving a request from a second user's machine, checking for a cookie on the second user's machine, sending a query for an available key when the second user's machine does not contain any cookie, and placing the cookie with the available key on the second user's machine, (first-time sign-in), (per pending Claim 14), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15).

4. Though Microsoft Passport TM teaches the use of cookies, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p. 7 & 15), Microsoft specifies that when a user chooses to "sign-out" of Passport, all Passport-related cookies from all Passport Web sites are deleted to insure unauthorized people are not able to access member information from the same computer. In other words,

though Microsoft Passport TM teaches temporary cookie storage on the client, it does not specifically teach permanent cookie storage on the client.

5. Koneru discloses a "globally unique identifier", (GUID), created by a server when a user first accesses a website and stored on the client computer as a "cookie". Upon user return to the website, the browser searches local storage to determine if it has a cookie for that website. If so, the browser transmits the cookie to the server, (Col. 2, lines 12-67 and Col. 3, lines 1-10). Koneru further discloses use of the GUID which also prompts the user for user ID and password information, which the system stores as a cookie which user ID and password information is subsequently received by a website each time the user passes the cookie to the website, (Col. 2, lines 12-67 and Col. 3, lines 1-10).

6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by Applicant to substitute the Koneru method of permanent storage of cookie data on the client within the Microsoft Passport TM system. The motivation to combine is found within the Microsoft Passport TM use of cookies generally and in the fact that should a member client not sign off or close the browser, said Passport-related cookies in theory are never deleted. For reasons of security, Microsoft Passport TM teaches the destruction of cookie data on the client machine, however, retention of the same would have been an obvious, albeit less secure variation. Thus, Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16 and 17 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru.

7. Regarding Claims 2 & 3, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. As noted above, Microsoft Passport TM discloses the storing of information as a different key(s) (Passport(s)) for each user, wherein the different keys may represent multiple sets of information pertaining to the same user, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15). Examiner notes that within Microsoft Passport TM, a user may create multiple Passports using multiple sets of information. Thus, Claims 2 & 3 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru with motivation to combine as noted herein above relative to Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16 and 17.

8. Regarding Claims 4, 5, 11 & 19, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. Microsoft Passport TM further discloses a security means wherein a requestor must be authorized by the user in order to obtain information about the same, (per pending Claims 4, 11 & 19), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-15). Examiner finds that the use of a user-supplied password, (per pending Claims 5 & 11), would have been obvious in view of the fact that Microsoft Passport TM does not allow access to user information without user-controlled authorization, which authorization would obviously include a user-supplied password verification means. Thus, Claims 4, 5, 11 & 19 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru with motivation to combine as noted herein above relative to Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16 and 17.

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9. Regarding Claims 6, 10 and 20, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. Koneru further discloses the use of ActiveX controls, Java applets and VB Scripts as inserted into HTML documents, (Col. 1, lines 39-46). As Koneru utilizes HTML, Examiner finds that the use of XML for the sending of information would have been obvious. Thus, Claims 6, 10 & 20 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru with motivation to combine as noted herein above relative to Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16 and 17.

10. Regarding Claims 7, 15 and 18, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. Microsoft Passport TM further discloses the receiving of new information on the user from the requestor and updating the database with the new information, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" – Examiner numbered p.13-16). Examiner notes that a user may update Passport profile information at any time. Moreover, Examiner finds that emails sent on behalf of participating websites could obviously include requests for additional or updated user information for a variety of purposes, which could obviously be used to update or enhance user information. Thus, Examiner finds that it would have been obvious for a user or administrator to update user information per the respective user or website request. Thus, Claims 7, 15 and 18 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru with motivation to combine as noted herein above relative to Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16 and 17.

11. Regarding Claim 8, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. As noted above, Microsoft Passport TM selects, (creates), an available key, (Passport), for the user and supplies the same to the requestor for communication with the user. Moreover, it is also noted above that within Microsoft Passport TM, said keys are only temporarily stored on the user's machine as cookies, whereas, the permanent storage of cookies on a user machine is taught by Koneru. The motivation to combine the teachings of Microsoft Passport TM with the cookie storage functionality of Koneru is also noted herein above relative to Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16 and 17. Thus, Claim 8 is found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Yahoo! Wallet TM, (Yahoo! Privacy Center), August 15, 2000.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arrienne M. Lezak whose telephone number is (703)-305-0717. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (703)-308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Arrienne M. Lezak
Examiner
Art Unit 2143

AML



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